

for the purposes of explanation, the upper most position of the block 34, i.e., nearest to the ram 25, is identified as a retracted position, while the lower most position, i.e., most distant from the ram 25, is identified as an extended position. When a press 20 is open, the slide block 34 will generally be disposed in the extended position due to the force of gravity. Furthermore, when the slide block 34 moves toward the ram, the slide block 34 will generally be disposed in its retracted position. See column 4, line 53 to column 5, line 6 and Figs. 1-7.

In order to control the movement of the slide block 34 from the retracted to the extended position, as well as to reduce noise associated with the movement of the slide block 34, the Gerhart cam unit provides a damping device having a tubular-shaped elastomeric spring 112.

The spring 112 is disposed between a movable disk pin 114 along its lower surface and a stop plate 116 along its upper surface. The disc pin 114 is disposed within a bore 118, which opens into an elongated channel 84. Accordingly, as the slide block 34 moves from the retracted position shown in Fig. 8 to the extended position shown in Fig. 10, a stop pin 82 moves upward relative to the elongated channel 84 to rest and push against the disc pin 114 to compress the spring 112. Thus, the movement of the slide block 34 from the retracted position to the extended position is dampened and noise associated with the movement is also minimized as the spring 112 is compressed. See column 7, lines 20-45.

The stop plate 160 abutting the upper surface of the spring 112 is disposed in the upper surface of the slide block 34 and secured therein by bolts 124. Accordingly, the spring 112 may be easily replaced by simply removing the bolts 124 and stop plate 116. Removal of the stop plate 116 also provides easy access to the disc pin 114 for replacement or adjustment. See column 7, lines 57-62.

Furthermore, Gerhart also states that in order to control the movement of the slide block 34 from the extended to the retracted position and to prevent damage to the die due to transient bounce, a second damping means can also be provided. See column 8, lines 5-9.

Referring to Figs. 7-10, it can be seen that the extreme upward position of the slide block 34 is limited by a stop block 140, coupled to a top plate 50 by screws 142. See column 8, lines 40-42.

The Gerhart et al. patent is a continuation of the Gerhart patent and discloses the same structure discussed above in regard to the Gerhart aerial cam unit. However, the Gerhart et al. patent also discloses a universal cam unit 230 having a spring assembly 268 for returning a slide block 234 to its home position after it travels along a mounting bracket 239 and driver assembly 232. Referring to Fig. 22, the spring assembly 268 preferably includes two retaining stop blocks 270, 272 coupled to the mounting bracket 239, a compression arm 274 and attached spacer 276 coupled to the slide block 234. The spring assembly 268 also includes a centering rod 280 and two return springs 282, 284 as well as a damping spring 278.

The retaining blocks 270, 272 are preferably coupled to the mounting bracket 239 and compression arm/spacer combination 274/276 is coupled to the slide block 234 by bolts 269, 277, respectively. The spacer 276 is preferably coupled to the compression arm by bolts 290. The use of bolts makes the items easily removable for repair or replacement, thereby insuring the damage or wear to one component of the cam unit will necessitate replacement of the entire unit 30. It should be noted that the return springs 282, 284 could be replaced by a single spring. See column 13, lines 36-59.

During operation of the press, when the ram is lower, the slide block 234 moves to the left in the view shown in Figs. 21-22. The attached compression arm/spacer combination 274, 276 contacts and exerts the force against the return springs 282, 284 such that the springs exert a force opposing the movement of the slide block 234. The compression arm/spacer combination 274, 276 may continue to move to the left against the force of the return springs 282, 284 until the specified full travel is obtained. When the compression arm 274 fully compresses the return springs 282, 284, the slide block 234 is in the extended position. See column 14, lines 11-22.

Presently pending Claims 1 and 2 of this invention, each recite a cam slider comprising a slider body, a resilient member that allows the cam slider to return to its original position subsequent to cam action, a counter member to the resilient member, and a base plate bolted to the cam holder and sandwiched between a top surface of the slider body and the resilient member such that the base plate is slidably movable on the top

surface of the slider body. See, for example, page 5, line 23 to page 6, line 33 of the originally filed specification for support of the amended language.

Also, as discussed on page 7, lines 1-7 of the instant application, the cam slider 3 having the resilient member (including spring 13) that permits the cam slider body 3a to return to its original position subsequent to the cam action can be handled as a separate, independent article that can be stored, marketed, and the like. Additionally, as further explained at lines 8-15 of page 7 and recited by the presently pending claims, the cam slider 3 can easily be attached to the cam holder 2 simply by bolting. Put simply, the base plate 5 of the cam slider 3 can be bolted to the cam holder 2. This also means and at the very least, clearly suggests, that the cam slider 3 can easily be detached from the cam holder 2 by unbolting the base plate 5 of the cam slider 3 from the cam holder 2. Furthermore, although not recited by the claims, applicants respectfully point out that the bolting/unbolting positions of the base plate 5 are lower than the cam holder and even of the resilient member, which facilitates attachment and detachment of the cam slider 3 to the cam holder 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither one of the Gerhart or Gerhart et al. patents teach, suggest, or disclose the above-discussed features recited by the presently pending claims of this application.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejected claim. Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the Gerhart or Gerhart et al. patents teach each feature recited by presently

pending claims 1-2 of this application. Therefore, claims 1-2 are not anticipated by either one of the Gerhart or Gerhart et al. patents, nor are claims 1-2 obvious in view of either one of the applied patents. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2 are allowable and the withdrawal of both rejections is respectfully requested.

more, as Based on our understanding of the cam slider discussed throughout the specification of this application, it appears as if the recited resilient member corresponds to the spring 13 while the recited counter member corresponds to the base plate 5 and guide pin block 11. Accordingly, it appears as if the Office Action's § 102 rejections are accurate. Furthermore, we are currently unaware of any distinctions and/or arguments that can be made to distinguish the presently pending claims of this application from the cam units of the Gerhart and Gerhart et al. patents. Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide us with any such comments that you are aware of.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, allowance of claims 1-6, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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